

Application No.: 10/824275
Amendment dated: February 28, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 30, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS.

In the applicant's previous response it was argued that the invention is not merely the adaptation of any hot-melt seaming tape to a different field of use. The applicant observed that most hot melt tapes won't work with artificial turf, but that tapes comprising hot-melt polyamide adhesive will adhere to the rubber or polyurethane bottom surface of an artificial turf with sufficient adhesive force to withstand the conditions encountered on a playing field. A person skilled in the art, even if he were to decide to try to use a hot melt carpet seaming tape with artificial turf, would have a large number of materials to choose from before finding one that is suitable.

In the final rejection, the Examiner pointed out that the arguments were not persuasive because the use in Foster's carpet of a known polyurethane backing as taught in Layman would have been obvious, and the claims did not distinguish the invention from the result of the combination of Foster and Layman because the applicant has provided no specific definition for "artificial turf." That is, Foster's carpet met the requirements of the claims as previously presented, because it did not distinguish the applicant's artificial turf from an ordinary carpet.

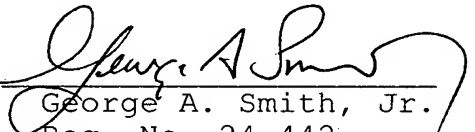
Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been further amended to recite that each layer of "artificial turf" comprises "a textile backing having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a pile composed of grass-like, extruded, pigmented, polymeric ribbons secured to the backing and extending upward from said top surface." The language incorporated into claims 1, 10 and 11 is fully supported by the specification at paragraph 0012 (".

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.a textile backing having a top surface and a bottom surface, a pile composed of grass-like polymeric tufts. . .") and paragraph 0023 ("Grass-like tufts 16, preferably in the form of pigmented, extruded, polypropylene ribbons, are integrated with the woven base fabric by means of tufting needles to form a grass-like pile."). In addition, claims 10 and 11 have been amended to recite, as does claim 1, that the hot melt adhesive is a "polyamide" adhesive "having a ball and ring softening point not greater than approximately 150°C."

With the amendments now made to claims 1, 10 and 11, the claims are now consistent with the arguments presented previously and summarized above. In short, the Applicant's discovery of a new way to anchor artificial turf, using a low softening point polyamide adhesive on a tape is a non-obvious advance, and the claims as now presented should be found allowable. The Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and the issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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